

Prayer diary

Enabling all ages to grow in faith



Spring 2020

Helping parents launch children on the journey of faith

Nurturing children isn't about doing everything for them. It's about equipping them, at the right time and in the right ways, to do things for themselves. It's the same with faith: children need to develop their own relationship with God. That's why Parenting for Faith's course, podcasts, social media channels and resources can help anyone to become confident in coaching children for a life with God.



Dear friends

Thank you for joining with us in entrusting our work and our needs for the year ahead to our loving God, our guide and provider.



As we enter a new decade, please join us in thanking God for all he's done for and through BRF in the past ten years, asking him to enlarge our vision for enabling people of all ages to grow in faith and to provide the resources to carry this out.

Let's thank God for the ten years since Anna Chaplaincy began in Hampshire, and ask him to multiply this growth so that many more will be supported spiritually in later life.

Let's pray for churches starting the Parenting for Faith course and for people accessing the support through social media.

Let's ask for encouragement and transformation in churches considering or already using BRF's Holy Habits discipleship resources.

Let's pray for spiritual growth in the Messy Churches trialling new ways to deepen discipleship in the Church of England dioceses of Bristol, Durham and Hereford.

Let's also pray for Barnabas in Schools, in its 20th anniversary year, that our online communications will significantly boost its profile.

And at the start of this new year, let's pray that God would open the hearts and minds of all who use BRF's Bible reading notes, especially those who are new subscribers.

Thank you, as always, for your partnership in prayer.

Canon Richard Fisher
Chief Executive, BRF 



To stay in touch with what God is doing through BRF, sign up for our enews at brf.org.uk/keepintouch

At the start of the year

Sunday 5 January

Pray that new readers of BRF's Bible reading notes will quickly develop the habit of daily reading and reflection, and grow in faith in 2020.

Monday 6 January

On the Feast of the Epiphany, give thanks for all who have come to know the true nature of the infant Jesus for the first time this Christmas.

Tuesday 7 January

Give thanks for all our regular Bible reading notes writers, and for the readers who come to think of them as wise friends.

Wednesday 8 January

Pray for readers of *Bible Reflections for Older People*, who may be struggling with poor health and the dark days and wintry weather.

Thursday 9 January

Pray that the new series of *Holy Habits Bible Reflections* will reach the right people to have the greatest impact on growing disciples across the country and across all denominations.

Friday 10 January

Remember all readers of *The Upper Room*: an amazing community of three million Christians across the world.

Saturday 11 January

Pray for Christians whose New Year resolutions to pray, read and serve more in 2020 are already flagging. May they find the will and resources to sustain and strengthen their faith.

Celebrating 20 years of Barnabas in Schools

Sunday 12 January

Give thanks for the Barnabas in Schools team, who have worked in thousands of schools over the past 20 years.

Monday 13 January

Give thanks for the donors and charities who have supported Barnabas in Schools, enabling us to develop the Barnabas RE Days, INSETs and wealth of free online resources.

Tuesday 14 January

Give thanks that over half a million pupils in the past 20 years have had an opportunity to experience a creative Barnabas RE Day.

Wednesday 15 January

Give thanks for those teaching RE who have benefited from Barnabas in Schools INSET training and have integrated the ideas into their teaching.

Thursday 16 January

Give thanks for those churches who have funded a Barnabas RE Day in their local school, and pray that more might do so.

Friday 18 January

Give thanks for the positive relationships that have been established with other agencies working in schools.

Saturday 19 January

Give thanks for the opportunities that exist to enable pupils and staff to explore Christianity in our schools, and pray that this may continue to be the case in the future.

For local Messy Church teams

Sunday 19 January

Thank God for Messy Church teams who work together to welcome new people into the family of the local church.

Monday 20 January

Pray for all Messy Church teams who are struggling, particularly those facing bereavement, illness or difficult home circumstances, which can make commitment tricky.

Tuesday 21 January

In this week of Prayer for Christian Unity, remember before God all those churches working together to put on a Messy Church across the denominations. May they be especially blessed.

Wednesday 22 January

Many Messy Churches stop because a minister moves on. Pray for good succession planning from one leader to the next.

Thursday 23 January

Ask God to bless every Messy Church meeting this week with one moment where they clearly see God at work in someone's life.

Friday 24 January

Pray that local Messy Church team members who didn't know God before continue to draw closer to him through their role on the team.

Saturday 25 January

Praise God for the new life he brings to so many church people through their involvement in Messy Church.

Behind the scenes at BRF

Sunday 26 January

Thank God for his provision, over the years, of the right people, with the right skills, at the right time. Pray for any staffing needs that may arise this year.

Monday 27 January

Thank God for his provision of finances; pray that we may have peace about funding needs and make wise use of resources.

Tuesday 28 January

Please pray that all members of BRF staff would be united in their love for God, and share his love for one another.

Wednesday 29 January

Pray that our relations with external suppliers, customers and other contacts would be worthy of our calling as Christians.

Thursday 30 January

Pray for any members of staff struggling with health or other personal problems. Ask God for his healing, provision and grace.

Friday 31 January

Please pray for BRF's senior management team. May they grow in leadership, holiness and wisdom as they seek God's guidance in the issues and opportunities they face.

Saturday 1 February

Ask God to bless BRF trustees as they share their time and skills to help steer us through the big decisions.

Remembering Anna, and Anna Chaplaincy

Sunday 2 February

Pray for harmony this Candlemas between older and younger generations. May there be mutual respect among all ages.

Monday 3 February

Give thanks for the churches of Alton, Hampshire, who in 2010 recruited Debbie Thrower as the first chaplain specifically for older people, and for the growth of Anna Chaplaincy.

Tuesday 4 February

Pray that more people will follow Simeon's and Anna's example (see Luke 2:25–38) of faithful perseverance in later life, steeped in prayer and other spiritual disciplines.

Wednesday 5 February

Pray for prophetic voices to be heard so that the most marginalised in society will not be sidelined but fully appreciated as important parts of the body of Christ.

Thursday 6 February

Give thanks for the growing national network of Anna Chaplains (and others performing this role), working with volunteers to lend spiritual support to older people.

Friday 7 February

Pray that we may recognise present-day Simeons and Annas: people with wisdom, resourcefulness and quiet perseverance, modelling how to grow old gracefully.

Saturday 8 February

Pray for greater expansion, so that in time every small to medium-sized community in the land has its own Anna Chaplain for Older People.

Faith in the home

Sunday 9 February

Please pray for opportunities for interesting conversations as families talk together about church after the service today.

Monday 10 February

Pray for parents and carers to have inspiration to equip and encourage their children as they head off to school.

Tuesday 11 February

Pray for time and energy for parents and carers to explore BRF's Parenting for Faith course on their own or with others.

Wednesday 12 February

Pray that families preparing for the half-term break next week would make great memories with God and each other.

Thursday 13 February

Pray that parents with non-Christian partners would discover what 'faith at home' looks like for them.

Friday 14 February

Pray that the regular Parenting for Faith podcast would help and encourage more and more people to include God in everyday life.

Saturday 15 February

Pray for hope for families whose children, teenagers and adult children have walked away from faith. May they have the persistence to keep praying for them.

For God's provision

Sunday 16 February

Give thanks for God's abundant provision of the financial resources needed to carry out his work at BRF, enabling people across all generations to grow in faith.

Monday 17 February

Give thanks for churches who support our annual Messy Church £100 appeal. Pray too that Messy Churches locally have access to the resources they need to reach families for Jesus.

Tuesday 18 February

Give thanks for 20 years of Barnabas in Schools. Pray that BRF receives the gifts needed to take this work forward into the next 20 years and reach a new generation of children.

Wednesday 19 February

Give thanks for the generous supporters who have enabled the Anna Chaplaincy ministry to grow. Pray that the number of supporters also continues to grow.

Thursday 20 February

Pray for BRF's supporters who are currently unwell or facing challenging circumstances.

Friday 21 February

Pray for BRF's fundraising team as they seek to sustain the valuable ministries and programmes and enable them to continue supporting individuals and churches into the future.

Saturday 22 February

Give thanks for those individuals who have generously supported BRF in their will, and pray for all those considering leaving a legacy in their will to BRF.

For the journey towards Easter

Sunday 23 February

As we enter the season of Lent, give thanks for Jesus and what he means to you.

Monday 24 February

Pray for churches who will together be using *Journeying through Lent with New Daylight* to reflect on Lent.

Tuesday 25 February

Pray for the Barnabas in Schools freelance team who will be leading Barnabas RE Days based on the theme of Lent and Easter in the coming weeks.

Wednesday 26 February

Today marks the beginning of Lent. Pray for all those who are spending time reading and reflecting on the events leading towards the cross and resurrection.

Thursday 27 February

Pray for churches who will be using material from the *Get Messy!* magazine to explore Lent with Messy Church families.

Friday 28 February

Pray for those who write and create Lent resources across BRF's programmes and ministries for churches and individuals.

Saturday 29 February

David Walker's Lent book *You Are Mine* explores the theme of belonging and being 'beloved'; pray that this Lent you may know oneness with God.

Living Faith – BRF resources

Sunday 1 March

Give thanks for all our authors and contributors, their God-given gifts and inspiration.

Monday 2 March

Pray that all those who read BRF's Bible reading notes will continue to draw comfort and encouragement from their time with the Bible.

Tuesday 3 March

Pray that our prayer and spirituality resources will be an encouragement to those seeking a closer relationship with God; give thanks for the close connection we can have with God through prayer.

Wednesday 4 March

Pray for those exploring our resources, whether or not for the first time, that they may find something that helps them in their own journey.

Thursday 5 March

Pray that readers may go beyond the pages of our books, discovering more about encountering Christ and sharing that discovery with their own communities.

Friday 6 March

Pray for all those running local Christian bookshops, helping BRF resources to reach their communities.

Saturday 7 March

Pray that the teams working on BRF's resources, from the editors to the marketing and communications team, will be sustained and passionate about bringing them to readers.

Messy Church leaders around the world

Sunday 8 March

Pray for the leaders of overseas regional coordinator networks, as they communicate via social networks, emails, video/audio-conferencing and websites.

Monday 9 March

Pray for Kliederkerk, the official 'home' of Messy Church in the Netherlands, as they grow a network of regional coordinators to support 150+ Messy Churches.

Tuesday 10 March

Pray for Roberta Egli and the Messy Church USA team, with their regional coordinators supporting the growth and sustainability of local Messy Churches.

Wednesday 11 March

Pray for Sue Kalbfleisch and the Messy Church leadership team in Canada, with regional coordinators working across five time zones.

Thursday 12 March

Pray for the Messy Churches in Sweden and Denmark, and their growing teams of regional coordinators organising conferences and training opportunities.

Friday 13 March

Pray for Messy Church in Germany, where regional coordinators are considering and planning relevant Messy Church resources, translations and meet-ups.

Saturday 14 March

Pray for the regional coordinators in New Zealand, led by Richard Stevens, and for Chris Barnett in Australia, whose Messy Church Roundtable produces additional resources and conferences.

Adopting ‘holy habits’

Sunday 15 March

Thank God for the gift of scripture, and especially for Luke, who gave us the picture of the early church in Acts 2:42–47, on which BRF’s Holy Habits resources are based.

Monday 16 March

Pray for all churches and groups who have been working with the Holy Habits resources for a while now. May their energy and commitment be renewed and bear much fruit.

Tuesday 17 March

Pray that church leaders and teams leading Holy Habits would see people become more deeply committed disciples of Jesus.

Wednesday 18 March

Ask God to protect and sustain Holy Habits leader Andrew Roberts as he travels the country, speaking, training, sharing and encouraging.

Thursday 19 March

Give thanks for all the contributors to the Holy Habits resources, and for the wisdom and experience they bring from so many different backgrounds.

Friday 20 March

Holy Habits involves everyone, from the youngest child to the oldest church member. Ask that all may love, respect and learn from each other.

Saturday 21 March

Pray for church leaders, lay and ordained, considering if Holy Habits could be right for their congregations.

Creativity – gift and responsibility

Sunday 22 March

Give thanks for the gift of creativity bestowed on each of us by our creator God. May we recognise this gift and seek to make best use of it in our lives.

Monday 23 March

Pray that the editors of our Bible reading notes would know God’s blessing as they plan each issue and work faithfully with contributors.

Tuesday 24 March

Pray that God will enable the contributors to BRF’s Bible reading notes to explain his word clearly, providing encouragement and challenge.

Wednesday 25 March

Pray that God’s creativity and wisdom would be richly evident in all our book authors, whether new or experienced writers.

Thursday 26 March

Pray that all those at BRF who write for our websites, social media and other digital and printed materials would have the right words for each project.

Friday 27 March

Pray for Lucy Moore, Rachel Turner, Debbie Thrower and Jane Butcher as they communicate about the programmes and ministries they lead.

Saturday 28 March

Pray for vision and courage as we commission new authors and assess new projects, and for guidance in knowing where to direct our efforts and in developing fruitful and lasting relationships.

Last week of spring school term

Sunday 29 March

As demands on school staff increase, please pray for energy and strength for those who feel they are flagging at the end of a busy term.

Monday 30 March

Many schools will feature the Easter story in their collective worship this week. Please pray they do justice to both its powerful sadness and its joy and wonder.

Tuesday 31 March

Many teachers will now know how well individual pupils have progressed this year. Please pray for perseverance and success for any teachers who are struggling to teach pupils from challenging backgrounds.

Wednesday 1 April

Some local churches will currently be planning holiday clubs for schoolchildren. Please pray for their success.

Thursday 2 April

For families receiving free school meals, any holiday is a struggle to balance budgets and keep children fed. Please pray for local community schemes that seek to help.

Friday 3 April

For many schools, this is the last day of a very busy term. Give thanks for work achieved, pupils encouraged and progress made.

Saturday 4 April

Please pray that staff in your local schools can this Easter lay burdens down and find physical, mental and spiritual refreshment.

Prayers for Holy Week

Sunday 5 April

On Palm Sunday, let us give praise to our coming king. Hosanna in the highest!

Monday 6 April

Pray that church leaders may find rest and time for personal reflection amid the busyness of church events this week.

Tuesday 7 April

Pray that all those under pressure to complete work projects before the Easter break may commit their efforts to God and trust in his strength.

Wednesday 8 April

Remember those who find Easter a difficult time, because of loss or overwhelming challenges. May God draw close to comfort them and give them his peace.

Thursday 9 April

On this Maundy Thursday, when Jesus' disciples turned and ran away, may we recommit our lives to our Lord. Ask him to encourage us where we are weak, afraid or doubting.

Friday 10 April

Thank our Saviour for the amazing grace of his death on the cross for us. May we never take his sacrifice for granted.

Saturday 11 April

As Joseph of Arimathea made his offering of the tomb in which to lay Jesus' body, ask God to show us what our own offerings might be.

For children's, families and youth workers

Sunday 12 April

Please pray that all children's and youth leaders interacting with young people today would communicate God's love effectively.

Monday 13 April

Pray that churches would fully support and resource those working pastorally with children and families, and find BRF's Parenting for Faith resources useful.

Tuesday 14 April

Pray for churches using the Parenting for Faith resources to train their volunteers. May they learn skills which can help the children in their care to connect with God for themselves.

Wednesday 15 April

Pray that Parenting for Faith's monthly 'Lunch with Rachel' Facebook webinars would helpfully resource and connect leaders.

Thursday 16 April

Pray that leaders who feel isolated would connect with others through the Parenting for Faith Facebook groups, and find others local to them for support too.

Friday 17 April

Pray for helpful and thought-provoking discussions for groups of leaders using the Parenting for Faith presentation video to learn about the five Key Tools.

Saturday 18 April

Please pray for BRF's Parenting for Faith team as they develop innovative, wise and useful resources for church workers on the Parenting for Faith website.

Messy Church in tough places

Sunday 19 April

Hold before God all those Messy Churches in countries where secularism makes it hard to find a foothold for faith.

Monday 20 April

Ask God to bless and encourage Messy Church teams who have the challenge of working in remote rural areas.

Tuesday 21 April

Pray for Messy Churches in areas of urban deprivation and ask for resources to be released to support them.

Wednesday 22 April

Some Messy Churches are the only ones in an entire country: pray that they will feel part of an international loving family network through BRF's ministry.

Thursday 23 April

For Messy Churches whose key leaders are moving on, please ask for confidence, commitment and courage to continue to take the ministry forward.

Friday 24 April

For families who find it hard to get organised enough to know when Messy Church is on, please pray for a call from God to bring them along on the right day.

Saturday 25 April

For all Messy Church families and teams who are feeling exhausted, please pray for rest, recovery and recreation.

The new school term: all change!

Sunday 26 April

Pray for those preparing for the summer term: school staff, pupils, parents and carers. Pray that all would feel refreshed and positive coming into the final term of the academic year.

Monday 27 April

Pray for stamina for those working in schools, as this can be a very busy and tiring term with many extra activities.

Tuesday 28 April

Pray for safety and enjoyment as schools undertake their school trips.

Wednesday 29 April

Pray for those pupils facing change at the end of this term – to new schools, classes or location. Pray that there will be good endings and positive feelings about the future.

Thursday 30 April

Pray for those working in schools who face change – working with new year groups, moving to a new school, retirement.

Friday 1 May

Pray for those who volunteer in schools in any capacity; give thanks for their time and commitment.

Saturday 2 May

Pray for those in power who make important decisions about the education system and the place of RE within it.



brf.org.uk

The BRF Prayer

Almighty God,
you have taught us that your word is a lamp for our feet
and a light for our path. Help us, and all who prayerfully read your word,
to deepen our fellowship with you and with each other through your love.
And in so doing may we come to know you more fully, love you more truly
and follow more faithfully in the steps of your Son Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forevermore.
Amen



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